

*For Immediate Release*

## **Hoosier Highways to get Spring Cleaning**

*Statewide effort to clean up more than 3,000 miles of Indiana roadway begins April 4.*

Indianapolis, Indiana (April 3, 2009) – Warmer weather means it is time for spring cleaning in the Hoosier State – and Indiana’s highways are no exception! This weekend, the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC), the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), and Adopt-A-Highway groups will kick off a major statewide effort to clean up Indiana’s highways during Trash Bash, from April 4-26, 2009.

“Providing assistance cleaning up Hoosier roadsides is a great way for Indiana offenders to give back to the community,” said IDOC Commissioner Edwin G. Buss. “We’re proud to be a part of the state’s annual Trash Bash clean-up effort.”

Each year, hundreds of tons of trash are collected, sprucing up highways in time for nice weather. In 2008, 39,677 bags of trash and 9,960 pounds of loose debris were collected from 3,000 miles of state highways and right-of-way, and IDOC work crews alone helped collect over 10,000 of those bags of trash across the state.

“INDOT is pleased to get our roadsides beautiful for spring along with the Department of Correction and our dedicated volunteers from Adopt-A-Highway groups,” stated Michael W. Reed, INDOT Commissioner.

During Trash Bash 2009, INDOT is encouraging Hoosiers to help clean up and prevent litter on Indiana’s highways by following these tips:

- **Don’t litter:** Set a good example for everyone, especially children.
- **Be responsible:** Carry a litter bag in your car instead of tossing trash out the window.
- **Report it:** Report areas where people have illegally dumped garbage to your local transportation, public works or conservation office.
- **Adopt it:** If you or your family is involved in a civic group, scouting organization or recreational sports program, encourage the group to adopt a highway. Call (317) 232-5509 or visit [www.indot.IN.gov/7008.htm](http://www.indot.IN.gov/7008.htm) for details.

Motorists should be on the lookout for clean-up crews during Trash Bash. When drivers encounter a clean-up crew they should slow down and remain alert for changing traffic patterns.

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### **Media Contacts:**

Douglas S. Garrison  
IDOC Chief Communications Officer  
Phone: (317) 232-5780  
Email: [dsgarrison@idoc.in.gov](mailto:dsgarrison@idoc.in.gov)

Shelley Haney  
INDOT Office of Communications  
Phone: (317) 233-4676  
Email: [shaney@indot.in.gov](mailto:shaney@indot.in.gov)